## SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

LANSING, MICHIGAN

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## SE MICHIGAN SENATE DEMS PRAISE GOVERNOR'S EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION

2006-07 Budget Increases Funding to Schools, Higher Education

**LANSING-** Southeast Michigan's Senate Democrats today praised Governor Jennifer Granholm's introduction of a 2006-07 budget bill that provides significant funding increases for K-12 and higher education. Granholm's budget proposal calls for increasing the per pupil foundation allowance by \$200 a pupil and increasing operational funding for state universities and community colleges by approximately \$30 million.

"The Governor has once again demonstrated her commitment to a diversified economy and her conviction that K-12 education is the key," Sen. Mickey Switalski (D-Roseville), a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. "By investing in Michigan's children, she is investing in a well-educated and well-trained workforce that will be the foundation of Michigan's economic future."

"The Governor continues to put children first in her plan for a diversified and well-trained workforce for Michigan's future," Sen. Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) said. "She recognizes that our economy will grow and expand in direct proportion to the quality education and training these children receive from early childhood forward."

Democrats were quick to praise the Governor for again submitting a balanced budget that included no general tax increases. The Governor has never proposed increases in any of the state's main general taxes — sales, property, income, etc. — despite inheriting major structural deficits from the Engler Administration.

"This is a balanced budget that furthers our efforts to provide quality education for our children, expand their career options, and diversify our economy, all without increasing taxes," Sen. Dennis Olshove (D-Warren) said. "I applaud the Governor's efforts and encourage the Republicans to recognize the merits of her plan as well."